



MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

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September 8, 2005

Jon Bruning
Attorney General
State Capitol Building, Room 2115
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Bruning:

As you know, the price of gasoline in Lincoln has increased radically this summer, particularly in the past few weeks, and sometimes without explanation. As the Lincoln community discusses ways to compensate for the low return the City receives from the state gas tax formula, many residents are asking why the price of gasoline in Lincoln is higher than in other areas.

A comparison of Lincoln, Omaha and statewide gas prices on the web site "gasbuddy.com" confirms what Lincoln residents already know: gas prices in Lincoln typically are higher than they are elsewhere. Lincoln residents are very concerned about these huge price increases. Lincoln residents want to know why the price at the pump rises so quickly when the price of crude oil changes or there is even the hint of a possible crisis, but declines so slowly when the price of crude falls or the fear of a crisis subsides.

I am particularly alarmed in light of the fact that daily gas price hikes have jumped from a couple of cents per gallon each time to more recent leaps of ten cents, twenty cents or more per gallon.

The information below demonstrates that the price of gasoline in Lincoln consistently is higher than the price in Omaha or Nebraska.

Unleaded Gasoline Average Prices

	LINCOLN	OMAHA	NEBRASKA
Today (9-8-2005)	\$3.106	\$2.955	\$3.012
Yesterday (9-7-2005)	\$3.127	\$3.034	\$3.032
One Week Ago	\$3.179	\$3.037	\$3.032
One Month Ago	\$2.296	\$2.268	\$2.310
One Year Ago	\$1.769	\$1.769	\$1.816

Source: gasbuddy.com

On behalf of Lincoln drivers, I ask that the State Attorney General's office conduct a review of local gasoline prices to determine why our local price appears to be consistently higher than the average in the state and Omaha. If the review reveals local prices don't follow the wholesale market changes, or that there is no explanation for unnecessarily higher prices, I ask that the State Attorney General's office please take appropriate action.

Sincerely,

Coleen J. Seng
Mayor of Lincoln

cc: Lincoln City Council